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Division of Forensic Science	Amendment Designator:
CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES PROCEDURES MANUAL	Effective Date: 9-December-2003

## 25 MDA/MDMA METHODOLOGY

## 25.1 Scheduling:

- Schedule I 3,4-methylenedioxyamphetamine (MDA)
- Schedule I 3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA, Ecstasy)
- Schedule I 3,4-methylenedioxy-N-ethylamphetamine (MDEA, Eve)
- Schedule I 4-bromo-2,5-dimethoxyphenethylamine (2C-B, Nexus)

## 25.2 Color Tests Results:

- 25.2.1 The sulfuric acid series of color tests generally give intense colors that undergo vivid transitions with MDA and MDMA. These may all appear black with very concentrated samples.
- 25.2.2 Marquis
  - MDA/MDMA dark violet → black
  - Nexus light green  $\rightarrow$  green
- 25.2.3 Meckes
  - MDA/MDMA green → dark blue/violet → black
  - Nexus yellow
- 25.2.4 Froehdes
  - MDA/MDMA brown → dark blue/violet → black
  - Nexus yellow
- 25.2.5 TBPEE
  - MDA purple
  - MDMA blue
  - MDEA blue
  - Nexus purple

# 25.3 TLC:

- 25.3.1 Baths: TLC1, TLC2, TLC3, TLC4 and TLC5 are recommended.
- 25.3.2 Detection sprays
  - Iodoplatinate, results may be enhanced by overspraying with Ceric Sulfate.
  - Dragendorf
  - Fluram visualizes MDA, Nexus and other primary amines.
- 25.4 UV: MDA/MDMA maximum at 234 nm and 285 nm in acid with associated minima.

## 25.5 GC:

25.5.1 Extraction of the sample may be necessary to get good chromatography.

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25.5.2 Acetyl Derivative: The acetyl derivative of MDMA-type compounds is made by drawing up 1  $\mu$ L of sample followed by 1  $\mu$ L of acetic anhydride, separated by an air bubble. The acetyl derivative should have a longer retention time than the underivatized compound and may require a higher temperature than the underivatized compound.

#### 25.6 FTIR:

- 25.6.1 Extraction from excipients may be necessary to obtain a good spectrum.
- 25.6.2 GC-FTIR is a useful tool to differentiate MDMA-type compounds.

## 25.7 MDMA Quantitation:

- 25.7.1 See GC section 10 for general quantitation procedure.
- 25.7.2 Reagents:
  - Methylene Chloride or Chloroform
  - Octadecane
  - MDMA HCl: (Alltech or USP)
- 25.7.3 Internal Standard Solution:
  - 25.7.3.1 Prepare a sufficient volume to dilute the standard solutions and all samples.
  - 25.7.3.2 Prepare a 1 mg/mL solution of octadecane in methylene chloride or chloroform in the appropriate volumetric flask.
- 25.7.4 MDMA Standard Solutions:
  - 25.7.4.1 Weigh ~ 20 mg of MDMA HCl and transfer to a 10 mL volumetric flask with internal standard solution. Dilute to mark with internal standard solution. This results in a solution of ~ 2.0 mg/mL MDMA in internal standard solution.
  - 25.7.4.2 Prepare a solution of another concentration within the linear range in the same manner to use as the check standard.
- 25.7.5 Sample Preparation:
  - 25.7.5.1 If the salt form of the sample is unknown, convert MDMA HCl to free base by multiplying the weight of MDMA HCl by 0.841 (193.25 F.B./229.71 HCl).
  - 25.7.5.2 Weigh 10-40 mg of sample and transfer to a 10 mL volumetric flask with internal standard solution. Dilute to mark with internal standard solution.
- 25.7.6 GC parameters:
  - Column: 15 m HP-1 or HP-5 capillary (0.25 mm i.d, 0.25 µm film thickness)
  - Oven temperature: 150 170°C
  - FID temperature: 270°C
- 25.7.7 Octadecane comes out after MDMA.